

Is It Significant?

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—The ADVOCATE of January 17 refers to the lynching of three men in Russell county. A few facts concerning this disgrace may not be out of place. The county's political status should be noticed. The republican official paper proudly boasts that Russell and Doniphan counties are the banner counties of Kansas because they alone have never elected a single Populist to county office, but have always been republican strongholds. In 1890 Humphrey had a plurality in this county of 151. In 1892 every republican candidate received a majority varying from 211 to 523 votes out of a total of about 1,700 votes cast. In 1893 the republicans elected every county officer by majorities of from 116 to 490. The God and morality party are in the saddle. Of course they are loud in denunciations of "anarchists" and of lynchings in southern states. And of course they class the members of the Farmers' Alliance and the United Order of Anti-Monopoly in the category with anarchists. Of course to doubt McKinley is scarcely less than treason, and monometalism must be accepted as an inspired *ipse dixit* of "statesmen." The only three newspapers published in the county are republican.

A deep, dark crime was committed last July. Fred Dininny was murdered. This fall Green Burton was arrested on a charge of forgery and afterward charged with the murder. Later Wm. Gay and his son John were also arrested. Various means were used to draw out a confession from them. The young man, John Gay, was very simple minded, an idiot, in fact. On New Year's day he was brought to the scene of the murder. Several county officials accompanied him. One of them was almost helplessly drunk. Another had imbibed freely. The first mentioned staggered into a house with assistance and there vomited like a dog upon the parlor carpet. For this he afterwards paid the woman of the house \$3. And this noble specimen is being actively boomed for a place on the next g. o. p. state ticket! Another of the county officers privately suggested that the citizens put a rope about the poor imbecile's neck and got a confession out of him after the mode practiced in the good old iron boot, rack, thumb screw, jungfrau, Holy Inquisition and witchcraft eras. The day passed in fruitless search for Dininny's body. Toward evening the aspiring statesman had got over his intoxication sufficiently to come out and threaten young Gay in hope of extorting a confession. Swaying before this unfortunate, leering in a maudlin manner in his face, he hicoughed, "Don't you know I'm smarter than you are?" He slapped the young fellow's face and put a rope about his neck. Bystanders were greatly incensed at this lawlessness of one "drest in a little brief authority."

A few days later the old man, Wm. Gay, was brought out and a noose was thrown over his head, but the sheriff removed it at once.

Finally, a skeleton, presumably Dininny's, was found. The coroner's jury held that Dininny came to his death by a blow on the head given by Wm. Gay, and that J. G. Burton and John Gay were accessories. On the evening of the next day after the jury's verdict, the trio were taken from jail by a mob and hanged to a railroad bridge near Russell. It is said that the wretches scrawled on the walls of the jail the names of the two leaders of the mob, both citizens of Russell, and that Burton wrote the same on an envelope and thrust it in his pocket.

The hollow hypocrisy of so much public prating about respect for law becomes apparent when three men, one of them an imbecile, and no one of them proven guilty, are unlawfully hurried into eternity. The aid of Judge Lynch was invoked; the much-boasted right to a fair trial denied. The Russell journals make labored efforts to place the blame for the lynching upon the community in which the first murder had been committed. It should rest elsewhere. It is improbable that any of the mob lived more than a mile from the jail. The victims of that "necktie party" probably knew too much. The mob was only too anxious to string them up, perhaps feeling that "dead men tell no tales." Probably arson, boot-legging, cattle stealing, and other crimes could have been explained by them.

With crocodile tears one paper had said a few days before the triple murder: "We hope it may not become necessary for the people to take the law into their own hands; but this gang have confessed enough to hang them." Did the feared necessity arise? No. And how were they to be hanged under the laws of Kansas? That sentence was an incitement to the lynching.

The victims of mob violence were republicans. No Populist has in any way been in the least implicated. It is not altogether to be wondered at that firm believers in stand-up doctrine should commit such a heinous crime. Men who think it all right to build up colossal fortunes by destroying the happiness and prosperity of thousands; men who believe in the

Good old rule, the ancient plan.
That they may take who have the power—and
they may keep who can;

men who argue that the "strong may take, the strong can hold, the weak must go to the wall"—such men will scarcely surprise us by resorting to little deeds of violence to gain a few hundred dollars, as in this case. They are but practising what they preach and following in the footsteps of their plutocratic masters. The mob, it is said, pretended to be friends of the trio, and claimed to be about to release them. Another step with the "debased currency, pauper labor" howlers! Will Russell county continue to support principles which logically lead to such dark deeds! "Awake, arise, or be forever fallen!"

CITIZEN.

Russell, Kas., January 24, 1894.

Is It a Fact?

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—The Kansas City Journal reporter says T. J. Hays, steward of the asylum here, was in that city recently. Hays is made to say that the "institution at Osawatimie is running smoothly." In regard to a question of Mrs. Lease, he said: "I think Mrs. Lease is still chairman of the board. In his attempt to remove Mrs. Lease, Governor Leavelle has not complied with the law." In answer to a question of "the outlook of the republicans in Kansas," Mr. Hays said: "I don't think I ever saw a better prospect for republicans regaining the supremacy of the state, and retaining it for all time to come."

To sum up: The Lawrence Journal said there was an eruption about to take place here at the asylum. Who has lied? My newspapers say Sister Lease's injunction was dissolved by the court. Want of "confidence" by Mr. Hays in the courts. Mr. Hays says "Governor Leavelle has not complied with the law." Republican court overrules the assertion; Mr. Hays off again. About the Populists being dead and the republicans going to sweep Kansas—well, a drunk man thinks everybody else is drunker than he is. The republicans, of

Kansas, are like the very, very drunk man who the boys carried and laid in a graveyard: The drunkard slept an unconscious sleep all evening and night and until the sun was away above the horizon next morning, when he awoke and arose to a sitting posture, rubbing his eyes and looking about him at the marble slabs and monuments; he said to himself: "Well, I am the first to arise, or I am damnably belated." So with the republicans since 1890. That year they lost 82,000 in five months; 1892, they lost all the state officers and both houses of the legislature; 1893, the republicans, as it has been in the past, hold a majority of the county offices; and since the republican Lease has run out on the board of charities and the Populists foreclosed, the republicans have got the thing all torn and split up. Whether they purchased the patient or not out and out, the patient is very sick and in the hospitable care of the republicans; as they are good for giving suck to "infant industries," they'll pray for and "miss" the infant until it kicks their eyes out.

JIM M. KANE.

Osawatimie, Kas.

THE OMAHA DEMANDS.

FINANCE.

First—we demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and, that without the use of banking corporations, a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent. per annum, to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or a better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all state and national revenue should be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

We demand that the postal savings bank be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

TRANSPORTATION.

Second—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

LANDS.

Third—The land, including all the material resources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. And lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government for actual settlers only.

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